

Drug Education

At Seaton Primary School we acknowledge that drugs affect all communities in modern society. We have moral and legal obligation to the children in our care to address this issue and to ensure that we do all we can to:

- Inform pupils, parents and staff about the risks and consequences of drug misuse, linked to other substances - including alcohol, tobacco and solvents - where appropriate.
- Teach young people both in and out of formal education settings - the skills needed to resist pressure to misuse drugs, including a more integrated approach to Health Education, with particular guidance to DfES and County guidance.
- Help make the misuse of drugs less culturally acceptable to young people, including the use of effective and targeted national and local publicity and information.
- Promote healthy lifestyles and positive activities not involving drugs and other substance misuse.
- Build on and disseminate good practice in identifying what works best in prevention and education activity.

Aims

In our school we will aim through implicit and explicit learning experiences to:

- Increase pupils' knowledge of the dangers of smoking, alcohol abuse, the use of solvents and drug abuse.
- Help pupils to understand the beneficial part drugs play in society.
- Teach children that all medicines are drugs, but not all drugs are medicines.
- Educate pupils on how to make informed choices.
- Teach strategies to help pupils resist pressure from their peers.

Effective teaching of drug education will increase pupils' knowledge of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and also enable pupils to:

- Improve their self-esteem
- Make informed choices and decisions
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others.
- Maintain and develop relationships.
- Develop self confidence.
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations.
- Develop the motivation to succeed.

Within the taught and hidden curriculum (i.e. the whole school environment) pupils should be given frequent and regular opportunities to work on feelings and to practise personal and interpersonal skills. We value and respect the learning that occurs in the community and in the home, believing that these, alongside school links, are essential dimensions of drug education.

Drug Education Guidance:

Drug Education and the National Curriculum

The Non-Statutory guidance for PSHE & Citizenship outlines specifically how pupils should be taught:

At KS1 ~ that all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly.

At KS2 ~ which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks, and that pressure to behave in an unacceptable or risky way can come from a variety of sources.....how to ask for help and the basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong.

Good practice in Drug Education.

It is important that the drug education is planned, integrated and progressive. There is no single model of good practice in the area of drug education, but there are clear examples of BAD practice.

Drug Education should NOT be:

1. A one-off lesson given either by teacher or outside speaker.
2. Only a video
3. Shock horror tactics - this has been found to be counter productive.
4. A reaction to a crisis.

Good drug education should provide young people with opportunities to develop a range of skills which will enable them to make informed choices in relation to drugs. It should enable them to take increasing responsibility for themselves and their behaviour.

Young people should have an understanding of how attitudes and behaviour related to drugs are determined by such things as moral and social values. They should also have a sound knowledge about not only the risks involved in drug misuse (legal and illegal substances) but also the medical benefits of drugs. Good drug education does not happen in isolation and it is important to reinforce key messages across all phases of education. To this end a spiral curriculum is most effective, particularly when developing a programme based very much on the development of life skills.

Special Educational Needs

Drug Education can:

- Address children's individual needs.
- Increase access to the curriculum.
- Enhance learning skills to develop previous knowledge.

Drug Education is an important aspect of Health Education and for pupils with Special Educational Needs the curriculum needs to be specific to their needs. These pupils may be at greater risk than young people who are more aware of

the dangers involved, these pupils may be taking medication and it is therefore important to stress the distinction between the importance of the medical benefits and drug misuse. The curriculum should equip these young people with the life skills required to cope with potential dangers.

Health and Safety

All forms of illegal substance are forbidden on the school premises. The school has a 'No Smoking' policy which should be observed by all those who visit it. We rely on the support of the staff, both teaching and ancillary, the governors and parents in implementing this programme.

Drug Incident

The misuse of any drug is regarded as a drug related incident. In the event of any drug related incident, staff should immediately inform the Head Teacher who will then assess:

- The legal requirements.
- The involvement under defined circumstances of outside agencies, including informing the police where appropriate.
- The types of behaviour, and the school's proposed course of action in response to them.
- The geographical boundaries to the policy.
- The involvement of parents.
- Arrangements for recording incidents and informing others of incidents, for example the LEA or local Drugs Action Team.
- Arrangements for safeguarding samples.
- Health and Welfare procedures.

Smoking

The whole school is designated as a "no smoking" area. Smoking is forbidden and if anyone is found smoking on the site the Head Teacher must be notified immediately and will take appropriate action.

Medicines

An up to date medic alert sheet is to be found in the school office. Each class is provided with a list of children with medical conditions which is kept within the class register.

Parents must notify the school in writing if any medicines need to be taken within school hours. The administration of medicines form must be completed by the parent should there be need to administer any medicine in school hours. Medicines are kept in the fridge in the staff room. Asthma inhalers are stored in the school office.

There are special medical arrangements for a child with epilepsy. Emergency procedures and medicines for this child are stored in a safe place within the child's classroom.